

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

BOTH DAILY NEWSPAPERS BASE THEIR EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON NEXT YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTIONS FOLLOWING AN ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY THAT PARTY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.

"DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE COUNTRY HAS A LONG WAY BEFORE BOTH THE PRESIDENTIAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS, THERE HAVE BEEN ALL SORTS OF STORIES CIRCULATING ABOUT WHO IS AND WHO IS NOT GOING TO STAND," THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL SAYS IN AN EDITORIAL.

OVERSEAS NEWSPAPERS, ACCORDING TO THE MAIL, HAVE BEEN CHURNING OUT WILD SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE ELECTIONS AND THE CANDIDATES LINED UP TO OPPOSE PRESIDENT KAUNDA.

A SIMILAR CHARGE WAS ALSO MADE BY MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF UNIP, THE COUNTRY'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY, BOB LITANA, AT A
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PRESS CONFERENCE HE CALLED TO ANNOUNCE THE ELECTIONS DATES.

MR. LITANA SAID THE PARTY WAS AWARE OF REPORTS IN THE WESTERN PRESS ON PEOPLE IN ZAMBIA WHO WOULD LIKE TO STAND IN THE FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, BUT HE SAID ALTHOUGH THESE PEOPLE HAD NOT YET COME OUT IN THE OPEN, THEY WERE FREE TO OPPOSE THE ZAMBIAN LEADER IN THE ELECTION.

THE PARTY OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, ADDED THAT UNIP "WILL FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL IN A CLEAN WAY," ANY CANDIDATE OPPOSING PRESIDENT KAUNDA.

THE TIMES EDITORIAL CONTENDS THAT THE PARTY, IN MAKING THIS PROMISE, IS NOT CONCERNED AT THE UNLIKELY PROSPECT OF KAUNDA'S BEING DEFEATED, BUT IS WORRIED ABOUT A REPETITION OF THE TRIBAL CAMPAIGNING THAT PRECEDED THE 1967 UNIP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

MEANWHILE, BOTH NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT ZAMBIA HAS DENIED VIOLATING THE UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. NEWS AGENCIES HAVE REPORTED THAT ZAMBIA IS NAMED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S SANCTIONS COMMITTEE TO BE AMONG 12 COUNTRIES WHICH HAD FAILED TO REPLY TO INQUIRIES BY THE UN BODY ABOUT POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF THE EMBARGO AGAINST RHODESIA.

A FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMITTEE REPORT ALLEGING THAT ZAMBIA HAD VIOLATED THE EMBARGO WAS A DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO WHAT ZAMBIA STOOD FOR. "AND ABOVE ALL, IT IS BASED ON DATA SUPPLIED BY A U.S. MISSION. SO WE HERE IN ZAMBIA CANNOT TAKE IT AS AUTHENTIC," HE SAID.

BUT THE SPOKESMAN DID NOT SAY WHETHER ZAMBIA REPLIED TO THE UN BODY'S INQUIRIES ABOUT POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF THE EMBARGO.

THE MAIL ALSO REPORTS THAT THE SPEAKER OF THE ZAMBIAN NATIONAL
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ASSEMBLY, ROBINSON NABULYATO, LEAVES TODAY FOR THE SOVIET UNION AT THE HEAD OF A SEVEN-MAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION.

THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION IS GOING TO RUSSIA AT THE INVITATION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR AND IS EXPECTED BACK HERE ON AUGUST 5.

ZAMBIANS LIVING IN BORDER AREAS ARE OFTEN FORCED TO TUNE IN TO FOREIGN RADIO STATIONS BECAUSE OF POOR RECEPTION OF THEIR OWN HOME STATION, A VISITING CHINESE BROADCASTING SURVEY TEAM HAS BEEN TOLD.

ACCORDING TO A MAIL REPORT, ACTING MINISTER OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND TOURISM, KEBBY MUSOKOTWANE, TOLD THE CHINESE TEAM THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT RELIED ON RADIO TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL ITS PEOPLE IN THE REMOTE VILLAGES, BUT THIS WAS MADE DIFFICULT BY POOR RECEPTION.

IT IS ALSO REPORTED BY THE MAIL THAT ZAMBIA WILL HOST THREE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON THE UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, PROBLEMS OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL BANKING DEVELOPMENTS.

THE FIRST OF THESE CONFERENCES OPENS HERE TODAY AND IT WILL DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF LANDLOCKED AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

NEXT WEEK, A SECOND CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS GENERAL MINING, GEOLOGY AND MINING AND METALLURGY, IS SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF THE NEW ONE MILLION DOLLAR SCHOOL OF MINES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA.

LUSAKA IS ALSO THE VENUE OF ANOTHER IMPORTANT FIVE-DAY INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN CENTRAL BANKS STARTING ON AUGUST 15, AND EXPECTED TO BE ATTENDED BY DELEGATES FROM SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

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OBSERVERS FROM BIG FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA), THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF), AFRICA DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL BANKS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

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